

UNCLAS //N01000//

ALCOAST 479/12

COMDTNOTE 1000

SUBJ: 2012 VETERANS DAY MESSAGE

1. EVERY YEAR, ON THE 11TH HOUR OF THE 11TH DAY OF THE 11TH MONTH, WE PAUSE TO HONOR ALL THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN UNIFORM.

2. ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1919 AS ARMISTICE DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE ALLIED VICTORY AND HONOR THE HEROISM OF SERVICEMEMBERS KILLED DURING WORLD WAR I, VETERANS DAY IS NOW A TIME TO PAY HOMAGE TO ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THIS NATION AND TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE OF FREEDOM.

3. HISTORICALLY, TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE WERE OBSERVED AT THIS MOMENT. THE FIRST MINUTE WAS IN HONOR OF THOSE MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY. THE SECOND WAS TO HONOR THE FAMILIES LEFT BEHIND. AS WE NOW HONOR OUR PROFESSION BY PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED, IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR US LIKEWISE TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR MILITARY FAMILIES.

4. FOR OVER 222 YEARS, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD HAVE ANSWERED THIS NATIONS CALL. EVEN AS WE PAUSE TODAY TO REMEMBER THEIR SERVICE, WE MUST BE MINDFUL OF THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO STAND THE WATCH - IN THE AIR, AT SEA, ON FOREIGN SHORES, AND HERE AT HOME.

5. THIS YEAR, AS BEFORE, MANY IN OUR COAST GUARD FAMILY WILL GATHER AT THE COAST GUARD WORLD WAR MEMORIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY TO HONOR OUR VETERANS. THE COAST GUARD MEMORIAL HONORS THE CREWS OF THE CUTTERS SENECA AND TAMPA WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR I. IN MY VETERANS DAY MESSAGE LAST YEAR, I MENTIONED THAT DECADES OF WEATHER AND EXPOSURE HAD DETERIORATED ITS CONDITION, AND I COMMITTED THE COAST GUARD TO RENEW AND PRESERVE THIS MEMORIAL. THANKS TO THE TREMENDOUS EFFORTS OF OUR WASHINGTON D.C. CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ASSOCIATION, THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS RESTORATION IS COMPLETE. THE FINAL PHASE WILL BEGIN IN THE COMING WEEKS. YOU CAN SEE THESE EFFORTS AT [HTTP://WDCCPOA.ORG](http://WDCCPOA.ORG). THROUGH THESE EFFORTS THE MEMORIAL WILL REMAIN A WORTHY TRIBUTE AND ENDURING INSPIRATION FOR ALL AMERICANS.

6. THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN AND MEN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND VETERANS FROM ALL U.S. ARMED SERVICES FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE AND CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATION.

7. SEMPER PARATUS.

8. ADMIRAL BOB PAPP, COMMANDANT, AND MASTER CHIEF MICHAEL LEAVITT, MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD, SEND.
9. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.